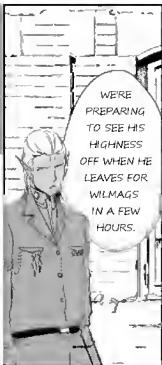




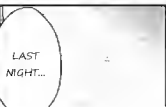




THIS IS
RELATED
TO THAT...



WE'RE
PREPARING
TO SEE HIS
HIGHNESS
OFF WHEN HE
LEAVES FOR
WILMAGS
IN A FEW
HOURS.



LAST
NIGHT...



HIS
HIGHNESS
ACTUALLY
MADE A
REQUEST



... YOU
DON'T
NEED TO
TELL ME.



IT SEEMS THE
ROYAL GUARD
NEEDS NEW
MEMBERS.



GO AND
FOLLOW
HIS
HIGHNESS.



YES.



YOU'VE
ALREADY
DECIDED,
HAVEN'T
YOU?



THANK YOU
SO MUCH.



THERE'S
NO NEED
TO HURRY.
HE'D BE
SADDENED
AS WELL.



UNTIL HIS
HIGHNESS
(THAT THIEF)
RETURNS TO
THE CAPITAL.



WORK
HARD
HERE.





THE PERSONNEL
AT PARATEON
FORTRESS ALL
GATHERED
OUTSIDE TO
SEE OFF HIS
HIGHNESS AS
HE RETURNED
TO WILMAGS.

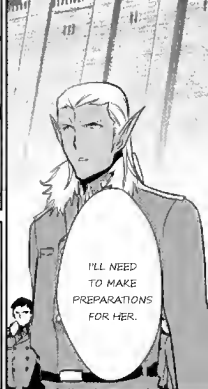


THANK YOU
FOR SEEING
ME OFF.





IF POSSIBLE,
I WOULD LIKE
TO KEEP HER
HERE FOR A
BIT LONGER...



I'LL NEED
TO MAKE
PREPARATIONS
FOR HER.



I HOPE THAT
YOU KEEP HER
BY YOUR SIDE IN
THE ROYAL GUARD,
YOUR HIGHNESS.

SHE'S STILL
NOT QUITE
READY TO BE
SENT OFF AS
JUST A GIRL...



SURE,
THAT'S FINE...



SO I
WOULD
LIKE TO
THANK
YOU
YOUR
HIGHNESS

ニコリ...
YOU
HELPED HER
MATURE A
BIT MORE
LAST NIGHT,



HE
KNOWS
ABOUT
LAST
NIGHT...

DON'T
TELL ME



HE KNOWS
EVERYTHING!



YOUR
HIGHNESS,



OH,
RIGHT.

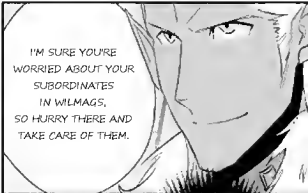
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.



THAT GIRL IS
THE ORPHANED
CHILD OF MY
CLOSE FRIEND,
SO I'M SAYING THIS
OUT OF SOMETHING
SIMILAR TO
PARENTAL LOVE.



... I'LL DO
JUST
THAT.



I'M SURE YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR
SUBORDINATES
IN WILMAGS,
SO HURRY THERE AND
TAKE CARE OF THEM.



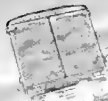
TAKE
CARE!



HIS WORDS
CAN GO RIGHT
THROUGH EVEN
ME...

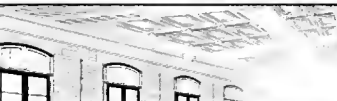


HE'S
DEFINITELY
NOT
SOMEONE I'D
WANT AS AN
ENEMY...





A FEW
DAYS AFTER
RETURNING
TO WILMAGS,
LECT WAS
FINALLY
ALLOWED TO
SEE MERIELA.



AND HERE'S
ANOTHER
PERSON I
WOULDN'T
WANT AS AN
ENEMY...

THE LAST
TIME WE SAW
EACH OTHER
WAS DURING
THE BATTLE
WITH GLORIE...



HAVE
ALL HER
WOUNDS
HEALED?



LIKE THAT
SERIOUS
WOUND...



THE FACT
THAT I NEVER
GOT A REPLY
TO THE
LETTERS AND
FLOWERS
I SENT



MEANS THAT
THE MENTAL
TRAUMA WAS
JUST AS
SERIOUS...

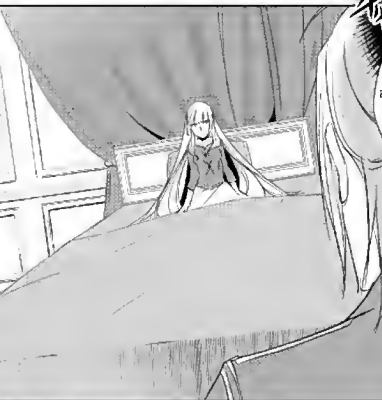


I WAS
UNABLE TO
SEE HER ALL
THIS TIME
BECAUSE OF
HOW SERIOUS
IT WAS.



力
技

I CAN FINALLY
SEE HER AGAIN,
BUT NOW I ALSO
HAVE TO TALK
ABOUT RIEDE...



EXCUSE
ME.



I-I SEE
YOU'RE
DOING
WELL.





THANKS TO YOU.
I'VE TAKEN QUITE
A BIT OF TIME
OFF.

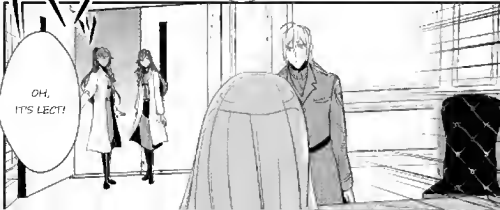


IT'S A RELIEF
THAT SHE HASN'T
CHANGED MUCH.

REALLY?



OF COURSE.



OH,
IT'S LECT!



YOU'RE THE
MAN FROM
BACK THEN!

AAAAH!

?



FERIEL,
DID YOU NOT
TELL HER
ABOUT ME?

?



SINCE YOU
WERE GONNA
MEET ANYWAYS,
I FIGURED YOU
COULD INTRODUCE
YOURSELVES.

YEP,
I KEPT IT
SECRET.

WHAT?!
YOU KNEW
THAT HE WAS
THE REGENT
AND DIDN'T
TELL ME?!



SHE WAS QUITE
INTERESTED IN YOU
AND THOUGHT YOU
WERE A NOBLE OR
THE CHILD OF ONE AND
TRIED SEARCHING FOR
YOU.



HEY!
WHAT DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING?!



IF YOU
WERE A
GOOD
MAN,
SHE
INTENDED
TO MA-



HUH?
WEREN'T YOU
SEARCHING FOR
HIM BECAUSE YOU'D
RATHER MARRY THAT
MAN THAN SOME
RANDOM REGENT?



THAT'S NOT IT!
I WAS JUST
TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT
WHO YOU WERE
SINCE I HADN'T
SEEN YOU
BEFORE!







DRAGON
GIRLS HAVE A
TERRIFYING
AURA...



IT'S FINE.



I KNOW THOSE
TWO AND WE'LL
BE INTERACTING
OFTEN IN THE
FUTURE AS WELL.



IT'S
JUST
THAT



...





SURELY AFTER
THAT MUCH TIME,
EVEN A DRAGON
WOULDN'T...

THE WHOLE
THING WITH
RIEDE WAS A
FEW DAYS
AGO,





YEAH,
THAT'S A
WOMAN'S
SCENT.

A
WOMAN.

WHO'S THE
WOMAN
YOU WERE
WITH?

AAHI